government can waive/modify the condition No. (i) above on a case-by-case basis. For the purpose of the downlinking guidelines, any channel, which has any element of news and current affairs in its programme content, will be deemed to be a news and current affairs channel.

Ban on smoking scenes in films

533. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry is putting pressure on the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to ease ban on smoking scenes in the films;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Easing of the ban has not been requested. However, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have been requested to look into some of the implementational aspects of the notification in the light of the reservations expressed by the film industry. The matter is also *subjudice* as a case has been filed against the notification in the High Court of Delhi.

FM channels for teaching students

534. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan before his Ministry to have inclusive FM Channels for teaching students in the remote areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government would think of having such a facility which will immensely help the students, particularly in the rural, remote and far flung areas to reply their queries and also helps by way of having on-air classrooms?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) The Government has already allocated one FM Channel each at 40 places to IGNOU for setting up FM Radio Station for educational broadcast. Out of these 17 channels have become operational at Bhopal, Coimbatore, Vishakhapatnam, Lucknow, Mumbai, Allahabad, Bangalore, Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata, Varanasi, Shillong, Guwahati, Raipur, Hyderabad, Jabalpur and Mysore. The Indira Gandhi Open University, a statutory body under the aegis of the Ministry of Human Resource Development on these stations has launched GyanVani, a "Radio co-operative" devoted exclusively to education and community development. These inter-active, participatory educational stations are aimed at greater empowerment of the people, particularly the disadvantage sections of the Society located in the remote and distant areas of the country. Gyan Vani programmes include information relevant to students of pre-primary, primary, secondary and higher secondary classes, as well as enrichment programmes to build environmental awareness, women's empowerment, legal literacy, professional education and science education. The programmes are designed by educational experts from NCERT, NIOs and IGNOU. Science Programmes are contributed by "Vigyan Prasar" of the Ministry of Science and Technology as well. NGOs and various Government departments also contribute programmes; Gyan Vani has created a Programme Exchange Unit and all the stations have access to the best productions of each radio station.

Further, All India Radio is broadcasting educational programmes for the students as well as for teachers of Primary/Middle/Secondary/Senior Secondary Schools in collaboration with NCERT/CIET in their primary channel through medium wave.

FM Radio Stations

535. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has invited tenders for 338 FM stations across the 91 cities of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the stations identified, State-wise;